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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/807,917	03/23/2004	Soo-seong Kim	18865K-014600US	4012

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EXAMINER

LEWIS, MONICA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2822

DATE MAILED: 05/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/807,917	KIM ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Monica Lewis	2822	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-13 and 21-31 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the election filed April 28, 2006.

Election/Restrictions

2. Applicant's election of Embodiment III in the reply filed on 4/28/06 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: a) 323 (For Example: See Figure 3); b) a31, b31 and c31 (For Example: See Figure 3); c) a32 and b32 (For Example: See Figure 4B; and c) a33, b33 and c33 (For Example: See Figure 4C). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 14 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Prior Art in view of Iwamuro et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,469,344).

In regards to claim 14, Applicant's Prior Art ("APA") discloses the following:

a) a semiconductor substrate (102) forming a collector region (For Example: See Figure 1A);

b) a drift region (106) of a first conductivity type extending over the semiconductor substrate (For Example: See Figure 1A);

c) first well region (108) of a second conductivity extending from an upper surface of the drift region into and terminating within the drift region, the first well being coupled to an emitter terminal, the first well region being separated by an impurity region (210) of the first conductivity type such that the first well region forms a separate pn junction (211) with the impurity region (For Example: See Figure 2A).

In regards to claim 14, APA fails to disclose the following:

a) a second well region floating.

However, Iwamuro et al. ("Iwamuro") discloses a semiconductor device that has a second well region floating (5) (For Example: See Figure 1). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the semiconductor of APA to include a second well region floating as disclosed in Iwamuro because it aids in reducing on-resistance (For Example: See Abstract).

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Additionally, since APA and Iwamuro are both from the same field of endeavor, the purpose disclosed by Iwamuro would have been recognized in the pertinent art of APA.

In regards to claim 16, APA discloses the following:

a) the impurity region has an impurity concentration higher than that of the drift region (For Example: See Figure 2A).

In regards to claim 17, APA discloses the following:

a) an emitter region (110) of the first conductivity type formed in an upper portion of the first well region, the emitter region being coupled to the emitter terminal (For Example: See Figure 2A); and

b) a gate terminal extending over but being insulated from a surface area of the well region between the emitter region and the impurity region (For Example: See Figure 2A).

In regards to claim 18, APA discloses the following:

a) a buffer layer (104) between the semiconductor substrate and the drift region and having the same conductivity type as the drift region, the buffer layer having a higher impurity concentration than the impurity region (For Example: See Figure 2A).

6. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Prior Art in view of Iwamuro et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,469,344), Li (U.S. Patent No. 5,793,064) and Nishiura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,987,098).

In regards to claim 15, APA fails to disclose the following:

a) the first and second well regions and the impurity region therebetween are configured such that when the separate pn junctions are reverse biased a boundary of depletion region in the drift region is substantially flat.

However, Li discloses a semiconductor device that has first and second well regions (180 and 190) and the impurity region (177) therebetween are configured such that when the separate pn junctions are reverse biased a boundary of depletion region (For Example: See Column 8 Lines 32-54). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to modify the semiconductor of APA to include first and second well regions and an impurity region therebetween configured such that when the separate pn junctions are reverse biased a boundary of depletion region as disclosed in Li because it aids in blocking high voltage (For Example: See Column 8 Lines 32-54).

Additionally, since APA and Li are both from the same field of endeavor, the purpose disclosed by Li would have been recognized in the pertinent art of APA.

b) the depletion region is substantially flat.

However, Nishiura et al. ("Nishiura") discloses a semiconductor device that has a depletion region (22) that is substantially flat (For Example: See Figure 5). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the semiconductor of APA to include a depletion region that is substantially flat as disclosed in Nishiura because it aids in overcoming problems with hole current (For Example: See Column 2 Lines 3-22).

Additionally, since APA and Nishiura are both from the same field of endeavor, the purpose disclosed by Nishiura would have been recognized in the pertinent art of APA.

7. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Prior Art in view of Iwamuro et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,469,344) and Uenishi (U.S. Patent No. 5,008,720).

In regards to claim 19, APA fails to disclose the following:

a) a distance between the well regions is in a range of 3 um to 6 um.

However, Uenishi discloses a semiconductor device that has a distance (B) between the well regions that are in a range of 3 um to 6 um (For Example: See Table 1B). It would have

been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the semiconductor of APA to include well regions that are in a range of 3 um to 6 um as disclosed in Uenishi because it aids in providing a device that can not be easily broken down due to overload (For Example: See Column 3 Lines 30-33).

Additionally, since APA and Uenishi are both from the same field of endeavor, the purpose disclosed by Uenishi would have been recognized in the pertinent art of APA.

Finally, the applicant has not established the critical nature of a distance between the first well region and the floating well region is in a range of 3 um to 6 um. "The law is replete with cases in which the difference between the claimed invention and the prior art is some range or other variable within the claims. . . . In such a situation, the applicant must show that the particular range is critical, generally by showing that the claimed range achieves unexpected results relative to the prior art range." *In re Woodruff*, 919 F.2d 1575, 16 USPQ2d 1934 (Fed. Cir.1990). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have various ranges.

b) a floating well region.

However, Iwamuro discloses a semiconductor device that has a floating well region (For Example: See Figure 1). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the semiconductor of APA to include a floating well region as disclosed in Iwamuro because it aids in reducing on-resistance (For Example: See Abstract).

Additionally, since APA and Iwamuro are both from the same field of endeavor, the purpose disclosed by Iwamuro would have been recognized in the pertinent art of APA.

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8. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Prior Art in view of Iwamuro et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,469,344) and Matsudai et al. (European Patent Application No. EP 1193767).

In regards to claim 20, APA fails to disclose the following:

a) the thickness of the drift region is in a range of 40 um to 120 um.

However, Matsudai et al. ("Matsudai") discloses a semiconductor device that has a drift region (13) with a thickness in a range of 40 um to 120 um (For Example: See Paragraph 31). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the semiconductor of APA to include a drift region (13) with a thickness in a range of 40 um to 120 um as disclosed in Matsudai because it aids in controlling the breakdown voltage (For Example: See Paragraph 28).

Additionally, since APA and Matsudai are both from the same field of endeavor, the purpose disclosed by Matsudai would have been recognized in the pertinent art of APA.

Finally, the applicant has not established the critical nature of the thickness of the drift region is in a range of 40 um to 120 um. "The law is replete with cases in which the difference between the claimed invention and the prior art is some range or other variable within the claims. . . . In such a situation, the applicant must show that the particular range is critical, generally by showing that the claimed range achieves unexpected results relative to the prior art range." *In re Woodruff*, 919 F.2d 1575, 16 USPQ2d 1934 (Fed. Cir.1990). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have various ranges.

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Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Monica Lewis whose telephone number is 571-272-1838. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zandra Smith can be reached on 571-272-2429. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300 for regular and after final communications.

ML

May 14, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, cursive letters that appear to be 'ML' followed by a long horizontal flourish.